

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /084 W

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R 090700Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7555

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SANA 0825

E.O. 111652: GDS

TAGS: MASS,, YE, SA, UR

SUBJECT: ARMS FOR YEMEN

SUMMARY: KEY YAR MILITARY LEADER ABDALLAH ABD AL-ALIM,
DISCUSSES MILITARY MODERNIZATION.

1. YAR COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER AND PARATROOP COMMANDER
ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM TOLD DCM 8 MARCH THAT ON HIS VISIT TO
MOSCOW HE "DID NOT REFUSE" ANYTHING SOVIETS HAD OFFERED.
HE SAID SOVIETS HAD "ACCORDING TO THEIR CUSTOM" OFFERED
EVERYTHING YAR NEEDED. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO DETAILS
OF SOVIET PROMISES, OR INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF DELIVERIES,
ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY THAT MIG'S AND TANKS ON BOARD JANUARY
VESSEL FROM SOVIET UNION WERE NOT DESTINED FOR YEMEN. HE
ALSO SAID THAT MORE EQUIPMENT WAS COMING, "INCLUDING NOT JUST
OLD ITEMS BUT ALSO NEW." SOVIET OFFERS WERE FREE AND
WITHOUT CONDITIONS, HE SAID:
2. "IT WOULD BE BETTER IF OUR ARMS CAME FROM THE WEST,"
ABDEL ALIM REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, "BUT WE MUST HAVE NEW
WEAPONS." THE SAUDIS, HE WENT ON, HAVE TOLD THE
YEMENIS NOTHING ABOUT WHAT THEY INTEND TO PROVIDE.

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EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE PROSPERITY AND SCURITY

OF YAR WOULD BE MORE TIED TO SAUDIS THAN TO SOVIETS.
ABDAL ALIM SAID YAR WAS POOR COUNTRY WHICH COULD AFFORD
TO TURN AWAY HELP WHEN IT WAS OFFERED. HE SAID THERE WERE LIMITS
TO RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS, AND THEY COULD NOT REPECT TO
GAIN INFLUENCE BECAUSE OF THEIR MILITARY AID. BUT, HE
CONCLUDED, "WE CAN'T WAIT FOREVER TO MODERNIZE OUR
ARMED FORCES. THEY ARE NOW WEAK. THEY MUST BE
STRENGTHENED, NO MATTER WHO PROVIDES ECONOMIC AID."
COMMENT: NOTHING NEW HERE BUT ABDAL ALIM WAS OBVIOUSLY
SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD WHEN HE INSISTED ON RIGHT
AND NEED OF YAR TO GET WEAPONS FROM SOVIETSIF SAUDIS
DON'T COME THROUGH.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

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04 MAY 2006

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